

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete paragraph [01] on page 1 of the specification.

Please amend paragraph [14] on page 5 of the specification as follows:

[14] The present invention provides for a monolithic obturator (12) embodying a handle[[d]], shaft and geometric distal end for penetration of the fascia. This obturator is unimpeded by the weight and complexity of a shielding mechanism. This makes the obturator lighter, less expensive and no assembly required prior to shipment. While other disposable obturators have an internal or external shield, this obturator is designed to work without a shield or with a shield on the instrument cannula.

Please amend paragraph [15] on page 5 of the specification as follows:

[15]In one embodiment, the proximal end (12P) of the obturator is equipped with an ~~arquate~~ arcuate shaped handle member (18) having a grasping portion (18G) to facilitate insertion and maneuvering of the obturator (12) by the surgeon. The distal end (12D) of the obturator is equipped with a tip (22) capable of cutting and/or separating tissue.

Please amend paragraph [16] on page 5 of the specification as follows:

[16]The present invention provides a medical kit (10) having a plurality of obturators (12), each being designed for use with a correspondingly sized trocar (11), as discussed in greater detail below. Each obturator of the medical kit (10) may be equipped with a different tip (22) in order to provide the surgeon with the most useful array of instruments. For example, in one embodiment, the kit (10) of the present invention provides a first obturator having a cutting tip (22A), a second obturator having a substantially blunt tip (22B), and a third obturator having a tissue separating tip (22C). This feature of the present invention provides the surgeon with the most often utilized obturators in a convenient, ~~easy~~ easy to use package (14).

Please amend paragraph [20] on pages 6-7 of the specification as follows:

[20]The present invention is ~~advantageous~~ has advantages over known medical kits in that each obturator is disposable and does not require the removal/insertion of the tip (22). Specifically, obturators having multiple pieces, i.e., a separate handle, tip and/or shaft, require assembly prior to use by the surgeon. In some cases, manually attaching the tip (22) to the shaft (16) of the obturator (12) can be dangerous and lead to accidental injury or infection. Thus, the present invention not only provides the surgeon with convenient access to medical instruments, it also protects against human error prior to or during a medical procedure.